



Department of State TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

AN: D730049-0112

PAGE 01 KABUL 05197 170734Z

16
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PC-04 AID-20 FBO-01
PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10 M-03 OC-06
OPR-02 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15
SY-10 SCS-03 MC-02 CU-04 RSR-01 /151 W

103630

O 170640Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4201
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KABUL 5197

E.O. 11652: EXEMPT

TAGS: PINS, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN COUP /SITREP 3

REF: A) KABUL 5193; B) KABUL 5194; C) KABUL 5188 ✓

1. MISSION PERSONNEL TOURING KABUL STREETS BETWEEN 0800
AND 1000 HOURS LOCAL REPORT SITUATION RELATIVELY STABLE,
REFLECTING APPARENTLY FULLY SUCCESSFUL MILITARY TAKEOVER.
MILITARY ATTACHE AND DEA REPS REPORT RELATIVE FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT ABOUT KABUL. IN VIOLATION OF ORDER TO AVOID PUBLIC
GATHERINGS, LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS NEAR DEMAZANG PRISON ARE
MINGLING WITH TROOPS JUBILANTLY SHAKING HANDS WITH SOME
TROOPS FIRING OFF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS IN AIR IN CELEBRATION.

PAGE 02 KABUL 05197 170734Z

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/STATE

REVIEWED BY

() RELEASE
() EXCEL
() DENY
FOI, EO 12958

CLASSIFIED TO: OADR
() CLASSIFIED TO: OADR
() DOWNGRADED TO: OADR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. NUMBER OF MILITARY UNITS IN KABUL REMAINS RELATIVELY SMALL, INDICATING THAT BULK OF MILITARY (PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT) BEING HELD IN BARRACKS AND CANTONMENTS. RANKS OF OFFICERS VISIBLE ON STREETS ALMOST ENTIRELY BELOW FIELD GRADE. PRIMARY ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN DIRECTING COUP ARE 15TH ARMORED DIVISION (BASED IN PULE CHARKI) AND PARATROOPER BATTALION. 444TH SPECIAL FORCES (ABDUL WALI'S ELITE TROOPS) ARE GARRISONED IN BALA HISSAR FORT. THERE IS A RUMOR THAT SARDAR ABDUL WALI HAS BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED.

3. AFTER INITIAL FLYOVER OF TWO MIG 21'S ABOUT 0600, NO FURTHER SIGN OF AIR FORCE AND NO SIGN OF AIR CHIEF OF STAFF GULBAHAR.

4. PRINCE DAUD PERSONALLY CAME ON RADIO AFGHANISTAN AGAIN AT APPROXIMATELY 0840 REPEATING PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL A). DAUD ANNOUNCED THAT FOREIGN POLICY OF AFGHANISTAN (I.E., NON-ALIGNMENT, FRIENDSHIP TO ALL NATIONS, ETC.) REMAINS UNCHANGED. HE REFERRED BRIEFLY TO TROUBLES WITH PAKISTAN BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE SETTLED.

5. DCM STOPPED AT MFA WHOSE PERSONNEL ALL IN STATE OF SHOCK. SPOKE WITH ACTING DEPTFORMIN WAHED KARIM WHO SAID HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO REPORT. SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO AMBASSADOR NEUMANN AS DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS LATER IN DAY.

6. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH BABAR, CHARGE' PAK EMBASSY, WHO REPORTED HE KNEW VERY LITTLE AND THAT HE HAD AS YET NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM ISLAMABAD. BABAR SAID TWO KEY ELEMENTS TO WATCH NOW WOULD BE THE TRIBES (FROM WHOM HE FELT DAUD HAD SOLID BACKING) AND MILITARY UNITS OUTSIDE KABUL.

7. ALL AMERICANS SO FAR REPORTED SAFE AND CALM. ASIA FOUNDATION REP. GLEN BOWERSOX, REPORTED SEVERAL SPENT ROUNDS SMALL ARMS FIRE ENTERED HIS COMPOUND FROM DIRECTION GENERAL ROKAI SULEIMAN OR CROWN PRINCE'S HOME ADJOINING ABOUT 0300. FOR NEA/PAB, PLEASE NOTIFY ASIA FOUNDATION OFFICE THAT BOWERSOX AND STAFF ARE WELL. NEUMANN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED